

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 01062 090955Z

12

ACTION DLOS-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-11 FEA-01 ACDA-05 AGR-05

AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 OFA-01

COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01

TRSE-00 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-03 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SAL-01 /119 W

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R 090840Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2378

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 1062

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PLOS GR TU

SUBJ: MFA VIEW OF BERN ROUND OF AEGEAN CONTINENTAL SHELF TALKS

1. EMBOFF WAS BRIEFED ON LATEST ROUND AEGEAN CONTINENTAL
SHELF TALKS AFTERNOON FEBRUARY 6 BY MFA DEPUTY DIRECTOR
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION HALIL DAG. SINCE TURKISH DELEGATION HAD NOT

YET RETURNED FROM BERN, DAG'S BRIEFING WAS BASED ON
TELEGRAMS. WE HOPE TO GET MORE DETAILED REPORT FROM
TURKISH DELEGATION LATER.

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PAGE 02 ANKARA 01062 090955Z

2. DAG SAID GOT HAD BEEN PLEASED BY GOG AGREEMENT TO HOLD BERN TALKS AND HAD BEEN CURIOUS (AND SOMEWHAT SKEPTICAL) ABOUT GREEK INTENTIONS. HE SAID TALKS EVOLVED FROM EXCHANGE OF NOTES IN NOVEMBER-DECEMBER, 1975. GOT HAD CONSIDERED GREEK NOTE EQUIVOCAL CONCERNING TURKISH PROPOSAL THAT GOOD FAITH BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS PRECEDE PREPARATION OF COMPROMIS FOR SUBMISSION OF THE DISPUTE TO THE WORLD COURT, BUT HAD DECIDED TO TEST THEIR INTENTIONS IN NEGOTIATIONS RATHER THAN RESPOND WITH ANOTHER NOTE.

3. DAG SAID THAT BUKORE TALKS HAD EVEN OPENED AN INCIDENT OCCURRED THAT CAUSED TURKS QUESTION GOG SINCERITY. TURKISH CONCEPT OF TALKS WAS THAT THEY WOULD FOCUS ON ATTEMPT TO AGREE ON PRINCIPLES OF FUTURE AGREEMENT. THIS THEY CONSIDERED TO BE BASICALLY POLITICAL RATHER THAN LEGAL UNDERTAKING BUT TO TURKS' DISMAY THE GREEK DELEGATION INSISTED ON HAVING FOUR LEGAL ADVISORS PRESENT AT ALL TALKS.

4. TALKS BEGAN WITH EACH SIDE PRESENTING ITS BASIC POSITION. DAG SAID GREEKS ASSERTED THAT ISLANDS OF THE AEGEAN POSSESS A CONTINENTAL SHELF IDENTICAL TO THAT OF THE MAINLAND; THEREFORE, THE DEMARCATION LINE BETWEEN THE TURKISH AND GREEK CONTINENTAL SHELF SHOULD BE A LINE DRAWN MIDWAY BETWEEN TURKISH MAINLAND AND NEAREST GREEK ISLAND. THEY OFFERED 1958 GENEVA AGREEMENT AS LEGAL BASIS FOR THIS POSITION.

5. TURKS COUNTERED WITH ASSERTION THAT ISLANDS SUCH AS THE AEGEAN ISLANDS POSSESS NO CONTINENTAL SHELF AND THAT THE GEOLOGICAL "PROLONGATION" OF THE MAINLAND DETERMINES THE CONTINENTAL SHELF. THE DIVISION BETWEEN THE GREEK AND TURKISH CONTINENTAL SHELF IS A GEOLOGICALLY DETERMINABLE LINE WHICH, ACCORDING TO DAG, RESULTS IN MORE THAN HALF OF THE AEGEAN BEING OVER THE TURKISH CONTINENTAL SHELF.

6. THE REMAINING SESSIONS WERE DEVOTED PRIMARILY TO CLARIFICATIONS BY ONE SIDE OF THE OTHER'S OPENING POSITION. DAG SAID THERE WAS NO NEGOTIATION AS SUCH. THIS, HE SAID, TENDED TO CONFIRM TURKISH SUSPICIONS THAT GREEKS HAD COME TO BERN PRIMARILY FOR PUBLIC RELATIONS PURPOSES. TURKS HAD SUSPECTED GOG WOULD PRESENT NON-NEGOTIABLE EXTREME POSITION
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 ANKARA 01062 090955Z

DESIGNED TO PROVE GULF BETWEEN TURKISH AND GREEK POSITIONS COMPLETELY UNBRIDGEABLE BY BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS AND THUS ONLY RECOURSE WOULD BE REFERRAL TO WORLD COURT. GOT FEARS THIS IS WHAT HAPPENED AT BERN BUT IS NOT CERTAIN.

7. DURING "CLARIFICATION" SWIC TURKS ASKED GREEK DELEGATION FOR ITS REACTION TO EARLIER TURKISH PROPOSAL FOR JOINT EXPLOITATION OF AEGEAN SEABED. GREEK RESPONSE WAS

THAT IT SAW NOTHING WRONG WITH CONCEPT OF JOINT EXPLOITATION BUT THAT IW SHOULD AWAIT THE DELINEATION OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF SO THAT THERE WOULD BE A BASIS FOR DIVISION OF PROFITS. (TURKISH VIEW IS THAT AGREEMENT ON JOINT EXPLOITATION WOULD OBVIATE NEED FOR DELINEATION.)

8. DURING THE TALKS THE TURKS AGAIN WARNED GOG THAT GREEK EXTENSION OF TERRITORIAL SEA LIMITS TO 12 MILES WOULD BE CASUS BELLI. IN RESPONSE THE GREEK DELEGATION SAID IT RESERVED THE RIGHT TO EXTEND GREEK TERRITORIAL WATERS UNILATERALLY, BUT ALSO SAID IT DID NOT NECESSARILY EXPECT TO DO SO.

9. ACCORDING TO DAG, BY THE CONCLUSION OF THE BERN TALKS THE GOT WAS STILL PUZZLED ABOUT GOG INTENTIONS. VERY LITTLE HAPPENED DURING THE TALKS -- EITHER POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE. THE GREEK DELEGATION WAS UNCOMPROMISING BUT WAS NOT PARTICULARLY CONTENTIOUS. WHEREAS DURING PREVIOUS MEETINGS THE GREEKS CONTINUOUSLY INSISTED ON IMMEDIATE REFERRAL OF THE DISPUTE TO THE WORLD COURT, THEY DID NOT RAISE THE SUBJECT AT BERN UNTIL THE FINAL DAY OF THE TALKS.

10. IN CONCLUSION, DAG SAID THEY WERE CAUTIOUSLY PLEASED BY THE BERN ROUND. IF, AS THEY HOPE, THE GREEK DELEGATION IS PREPARED TO STUDY THE TURKISH POSITION AND RESPOND TO IT, IN FUTURE TALKS THE GOT BELIEVES THE BERN TALKS COULD MARK THE BEGINNING OF GOOD FAITH BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS. IF HOWEVER, AS THE TURKS FEAR, THE GOG WAS MERELY MARKING TIME AT BERN -- FULFILLING THE LETTER BUT NOT THE SPIRIT OF THE COMMITMENT TO SEEK AREAS OF AGREEMENT BEFORE SUBMITTING THE DISPUTE TO THE WORLD COURT -- THEY DESPAIR OF EVER FINDING A PEACEFUL SOLUTION.
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